

REMARKS

The present application was filed on March 19, 1999 with claims 1-22. Claims 1-3, 11-13 and 22 have been amended. Claims 9 and 19 have been canceled. Accordingly, claims 1-8, 10-18 and 20-22 remain pending.

Claims 1-4, 6-14 and 16-22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) and being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,956,655 issued to Suzuki et al. (hereafter "Suzuki"). It is well settled that, in order for a claim to be anticipated, the cited reference must teach each and every element of the claim. Applicants submit that Suzuki fails to disclose all of the elements of the claims as amended.

Independent claims 1, 11, and 22 have been amended to more clearly define the invention. More specifically, the claims have been amended to more clearly indicate that an automated set of operations generate information representative of at least a first state machine and a second state machine, the first state machine for controlling a first set of labels for soft-labeled keys of a first terminal associated with a first user, and the second state machine for controlling a second set of labels for soft-labeled keys of a second terminal associated with a second user. The claims have also been amended to more clearly indicate that the automated set of operations process input indicative of terminal features desired by each of said first user and said second user in order to generate the respective first and second state machines. In this way, the first and second state machines produce different soft-labeled key displays for the respective first and second terminals. Dependent claims 2-3 and dependent claims 12-13 have been amended to conform to the language contained in amended claims 1 and 11, respectively. Support for the amendments can be found throughout the application, for example, page 3, lines 1-25 and page 7, line 21 through page 8, line 2.

The elements described above with regard to claims 1, 11 and 22 as amended are not disclosed by Suzuki. On page 2 of the Office Action the Examiner states, "Suzuki et al teach a method for generating different set of operations for different state machine (see figures 3, 25)." However, figure 3 of Suzuki simply shows different views (a through e) of one portable communication device. (See column 4, lines 36-41). Figure 25 of Suzuki shows the external appearance of a radio base station. (See column 23, lines 55-56). There is no disclosure in Suzuki of the generation of respective first and second state machines producing different soft-labeled keys displays for the respective first and second terminals, as set forth in the claims as amended.

Claims 3 and 13 claim a method and apparatus, respectively, wherein the information generated by an automated set of operations includes “a control table specifying a set of label identifiers for each of at least a subset of the plurality of states of the terminal, and a label table specifying, for each of at least a subset of the labels identified by a given one of the label identifiers, a character string corresponding to the label, a feature identifier associated with the label, and a presentation attribute.” Suzuki does not disclose the use of either a control table or a label table.

Applicants note that, although claims 3 and 13 stand rejected under §102(e), there is no indication within the Office Action regarding where the elements contained within claims 1 and 13 are disclosed in Suzuki. Similarly, claims 4, 6 and 7, which depend upon claim 3, and claims 14, 16 and 17, which depend upon claim 13, are not discussed in the Office Action. There is no indication in the Office Action regarding where in Suzuki the elements of these claims are disclosed. Applicants submit that the elements of claims 3, 4, 6 and 7, as well as 13, 14, 16 and 17 are not disclosed by Suzuki.

Since Suzuki fails to disclose all of the elements of the claims as amended, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the §102(e) rejections.

Claims 5 and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Suzuki in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,061,512 issued to Lin et al. (hereafter “Lin”). In order to establish a case of obviousness under §103(a), the combined references must teach or suggest all of the claim limitations. Applicants submit that Suzuki and Lin fail to teach or suggest all of the limitations of the claims as amended.

In the Office Action, it is conceded that Suzuki fails to insert and update the labels of soft-labeled keys. The Examiner then states, “Lin et al teach a method for adding and updating labels of soft keys (see figure 19 and column [27], lines 15-35).”

However, claims 5 and 15 claim more than adding and updating labels of soft keys. Claims 5 and 15 set forth the steps of “(i) checking the label table to determine if there is an entry already present for the extracted feature identifier, (ii) if no entry is found in the label table, assigning a label identifier to the feature, inserting that label identifier into a set of label identifiers associated with the corresponding state, and updating the label table with the new label identifier, the feature identifier and the character string for the label, and (iii) if an entry is found in the label table for the

feature identifier, extracting the label identifier from the label table and assigning it to the next open position for the corresponding state in the control table.” These steps are not disclosed by Lin or Suzuki.

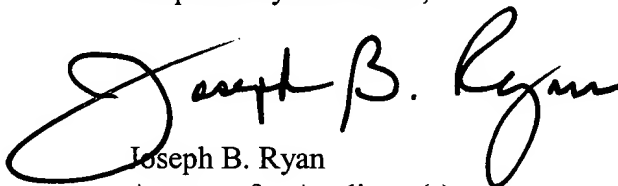
In addition, due to its dependency, claim 5 contains the elements of claims 1, 3 and 4. Similarly, claim 15 contains the elements of claims 11, 13 and 14. As discussed above, the elements of these claims upon which claim 5 and 15 depend are not disclosed by Suzuki. These elements are also not disclosed in Lin.

Since the combination of Suzuki and Lin fail to teach or suggest all of the limitations of the claims, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the §103(a) rejection of claims 5 and 15.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the present Amendment.

In view of the above, Applicants believe that claims 1-8, 10-18 and 20-22 are in condition for allowance, and respectfully request withdrawal of the §102(e) and §103(a) rejections.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Joseph B. Ryan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Joseph" and last name "Ryan" clearly legible. The middle initial "B." is also present.

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE SPECIFICATION

The paragraph on page 1 beginning on line 6 has been amended as follows:

The present application is related to U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/272,957 entitled “Feature Access Control in a Display-Based Terminal Environment,” and U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/272,956 entitled “State-Based Control of a Terminal User Interface Containing Soft-Labeled Keys,” both filed concurrently herewith.

The paragraph on page 5 beginning on line 22 has been amended as follows:

The switch 110 in this example further includes four port cards 120A, 120B, 120C and 120D. Port card 120A is coupled to a wireless base station 121 which communicates with a first wireless terminal (WT) 122 designated WT1 and a second wireless terminal 123 designated WT2. The terminal WT1 may be a mobile telephone, and the terminal WT2 may be a wireless deskset. Port card 120B is connected to a broadband wireless base station, e.g., a National Information Infrastructure (NII) wireless base station 124, which communicates with a wireless personal computer (WPC) 125. Port card 120C is connected to a wired deskset (DS) 126. Port card 120D is connected to an advanced terminal (AT) 127, which may be, e.g., a video telephone operating in accordance with the H.320 standard. It should be noted that the switch 110 may include additional port cards, and may be connected to other types and arrangements of user terminals. The switch 110 is also connected to an administrator terminal 128 which may be used to program the operation of the switch 110 during a system administration, e.g., an initial set-up and configuration of the system or a subsequent system-level or user-level reconfiguration.

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 9 and 19 have been canceled.

Claims 1-3, 11-13 and 22 have been amended as follows:

1. (Amended) A method of controlling a [terminal] plurality of terminals in a communication system, the method comprising the [steps] step of:

utilizing an automated set of operations to generate information representative of [a] at least a first state machine and a second state machine, the first state machine for controlling [labels for a plurality of soft-labeled keys of the terminal] a first set of labels for soft-labeled keys of a first terminal associated with a first user, and the second state machine for controlling a second set of labels for soft-labeled keys of a second terminal associated with a second user, wherein the automated set of operations process input indicative of [desired] terminal features desired by each of said first user and said second user [for at least one user] in order to generate the [information] respective first and second state machines, the first and second state machines producing different soft-labeled key displays for the respective first and second terminals.

2. (Amended) The method of claim 1 further including the step of determining a set of label identifiers for each of at least a subset of the states of at least one of the first and second state [machine] machines, wherein each of the label identifiers specifies a label to be associated with a given one of the soft-labeled keys of the corresponding terminal in at least one of the states.

3. (Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the information includes a control table specifying a set of label identifiers for each of at least a subset of the plurality of states of at least one of the [terminal] first and second terminals, and a label table specifying, for each of at least a subset of the labels identified by a given one of the label identifiers, a character string corresponding to the label, a feature identifier associated with the label, and a presentation attribute.

11. (Amended) An apparatus comprising:

a processor for implementing an automated set of operations to generate information representative of [a] at least a first state machine and a second state machine, the first state machine for controlling [labels for a plurality of soft-labeled keys of the terminal] a first set of labels for soft-

labeled keys of a first terminal associated with a first user, and the second state machine for controlling a second set of labels for soft-labeled keys of second a terminal associated with a second user, wherein the automated set of operations process input indicative of [desired] terminal features desired by each of said first user and said second user [for at least one user] in order to generate the respective first and second state machines, the first and second state machines producing different soft-labeled key displays for the respective first and second terminals; and

a memory for at least temporarily storing at least a portion of the information.

12. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 11 wherein the processor is further operative to associate a set of label identifiers with each of at least a subset of the states of at least one of the first and second state [machine] machines, wherein each of the label identifiers specifies a label to be associated with a given one of the soft-labeled keys of the corresponding terminal in at least one of the states.

13. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 11 wherein the information includes a control table specifying a set of label identifiers for each of at least a subset of the plurality of states of at least one of the [terminal] first and second terminals, and a label table specifying, for each of at least a subset of the labels identified by a given one of the label identifiers, a character string corresponding to the label, a feature identifier associated with the label, and a presentation attribute.

22. (Amended) An article of manufacture comprising a machine-readable storage medium storing one or more programs for implementing a method of controlling a [terminal] plurality of terminals in a communication system, wherein the one or more programs comprise an automated set of operations to generate information representative of [a] at least a first state machine and a second state machine, the first state machine for controlling [labels for a plurality of soft-labeled keys of the terminal] a first set of labels for soft-labeled keys of a first terminal associated with a first user, and the second state machine for controlling a second set of labels for soft-labeled keys of a second terminal associated with a second user, wherein the automated set of operations process input indicative of [desired] terminal features desired by each of said first user and said second user [for

at least one user] in order to generate the [information] respective first and second state machines,
the first and second state machines producing different soft-labeled key displays for the respective
first and second terminals.